

# TYPE SPECIMENS IN THE MACLEAY MUSEUM UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

## III. BIRDS

P. J. STANBURY

*School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney*

[Read 27th November, 1968]

### INTRODUCTION

There are about 9000 bird skins in the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney. At least 57 of these are types or belong to a type series. This paper lists them together with associated pertinent information. As noted in the other papers in this series (Stanbury 1968, Goldman, Hill and Stanbury 1969) further types may lie unrecognized in the Museum.

### THE BIRD TYPES

Some of the bird types were collected on the "Chevert" expedition to north Queensland and New Guinea waters in 1875 (see Macmillan 1957). Others were obtained from collectors in the northern parts of Australia. The new species were described by G. Masters (the first curator of the Macleay Museum<sup>1</sup>) and by E. P. Ramsay.

A few of the type specimens are mounted but most are stuffed skins. All are kept in the dark in air-tight drawers.

In the table that follows the BT numbers refer to the numbers of the compartments in which the specimens are stored. At present there is no complete register of birds; a register has been started but it is unlikely to be completed before the end of 1969. When the register is complete each type specimen will be numbered with the prefix B. (The BT number will appear in brackets on the same label.)

The classification in the table is that devised by A. Wetmore of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, in 1960.

The reference to the original description of each type specimen is given. In addition the revised name used by G. M. Mathews (in the two parts of *Systema Avium Australasianarum*, published in 1927 and 1930 by the British Ornithologists Union) is given. Reference to the page quoted will usually provide a list of earlier synonymous names.

The Australian Museum holds some types of which the Macleay Museum also holds individuals of the same species collected from the same locality in about the same year.

In view of the relations of Sir William Macleay with the Australian Museum and with the University of Sydney it is possible that some of such specimens in the Macleay Museum are part of a type series. I have therefore labelled these "type series?". In these instances the reference number of the Australian Museum type specimen also is given in the table.

---

<sup>1</sup>The curators of the Macleay Museum were G. Masters 1888-1912; J. Shewan 1913-1933; K. E. W. Salter 1934-1944; J. R. Henry 1945-1958; Elizabeth Hahn 1958-1962; and Jennifer M. E. Anderson 1963-1966; all of whom have contributed either directly or indirectly to this list. I am especially grateful to my immediate predecessor, Mrs. J. Anderson, for her work in this regard.

## List of Specimens

Family	Scientific name under which originally described	Reference Proc. LINN. Soc., N.S.W.	Name in Mathews: <i>Systema Avium Australasianarum</i> and page reference	No. of specimens and sex where known	Type or type series	Locality and date collected where known	Macleay Museum Reg. No.	Type specimen number in Australian Museum
Megapodiidae	<i>Megapodius assimilis</i> Masters, 1875	1: 59	<i>Megapodius reinwardt</i> Dumont, p. 13	1 ? 2 female	Type series	Dungeness Island, Bet Island, Torres Straits	BT20	None
Laridae	<i>Sterna nigrifrons</i> Masters, 1875	1: 62	<i>Sterna dougallii</i> Montagu, p. 138	1 male 1 female	Type	Warrior Reef, Torres Straits 17.7.1875	BT15	None
Laridae	<i>Larus longirostris</i> Masters, 1877	2: 113	<i>Bruchigavia novae- hollandiae</i> (Stephens), p. 147	6	Type series	King George's Sound	BT16	None
Columbidae ?	<i>Macropygia rufo-castanea</i> Ramsay, 1879	4: 314	<i>Macropygia rufa</i> Rams., p. 61	1	Type series ?	Solomon Islands	BT25	0.18711 male
Podargidae	<i>Podargus gouldi</i> Masters, 1875	1: 45	<i>Podargus strigoides</i> (Latham), p. 355	1 male 1 female	Type	Gulf of Carpentaria, June, 1875	BT19	None
Muscicapidae	<i>Gerygone simplex</i> Masters, 1875	1: 52	<i>Ethelornis mastersi</i> (Sharpe), p. 464	2 male 1 female	Type series	Gulf of Carpentaria	BT1	None
Muscicapidae	<i>Pachycephala robusta</i> Masters, 1875	1: 49	<i>Pachycephala robusta</i> Masters, p. 668	1 female	Type	Cape York	BT2	None
Muscicapidae	<i>Pachycephala kandavensis</i> Ramsay, 1875	1: 66	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i> (Lath.), p. 667	4 male 2 female	Type series	Kandavu, Fiji	BT3	None
Muscicapidae	<i>Pachycephala occidentalis</i> Ramsay, 1877	2: 212	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i> (Lath.), p. 664	5 male 4 female	Type series ?	Western Australia and King George's Sound	BT4	0.18570
Muscicapidae	<i>Pachycephala dubia</i> Ramsay, 1879	4: 99	<i>Muscitrea griseiceps</i> (Gray), p. 680	2	Type series ?	Astrolabe Bay, New Guinea	BT5	0.18575

## List of Specimens—Continued

Family	Scientific name under which originally described	Reference Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W.	Name in Mathews: <i>Systema Avium Australasianarum</i> and page reference	No. of specimens and sex where known	Type or type series	Locality and date collected where known	Macleay Museum Reg. No.	Type specimen number in Australian Museum
Muscicapidae	<i>Sericornis brunneopygius</i> Masters, 1875	1: 53	<i>Sericornis minimus</i> Gould, p. 615	6 3 male 3 female (7 originally collected)	Type series	Cape York	BT6	None
Muscicapidae	<i>Sauloprocta cockerelli</i> Ramsay, 1879	4: 81	<i>Leucocirca cockerelli</i> (Ramsay), p. 498	2	Type series?	Solomon Islands	BT7	0.18716 male 3849 male? 3848 female
Muscicapidae	<i>Monarcha brodiei</i> Ramsay, 1879	4: 80	<i>Piezormona barbata</i> (Ramsay), p. 516	1	Type series?	Solomon Islands	BTS	0.18724 male
Muscicapidae	<i>Myiagra pallida</i> Ramsay, 1879	4: 79	<i>Submyiagra ferrocyanea</i> (Ramsay), p. 501	2	Type series?	Solomon Islands	BT9	3839 male 3838 male? 3840 female
Muscicapidae	<i>Myiagra ferrocyanea</i> Ramsay, 1879	4: 78	<i>Submyiagra ferrocyanea</i> (Ramsay), p. 501	4	Type series?	Solomon Islands	BT10	3833 male 3837 male 0.18720 male? 3835 female
Muscicapidae	<i>Eopsaltria inornata</i> Ramsay, 1874	Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1874, p. 604	<i>Muscitrea griseiceps</i> (Gray), p. 679	1	Type series?	Endeavour River	BT11	0.32614
Sternidae	<i>Sternula inconspicua</i> Masters, 1875	1: 63	<i>Sternula albifrons</i> (Vroeg), p. 140	4 1 male 3 female (5 specimens originally collected)	Type series	Cape York, 19.6.1875, and 22.9.1875	BT14	None

## List of Specimens—Continued

Family	Scientific name under which originally described	Reference	Name in Mathews : <i>Systema Avium Australasianarum</i> and page reference	No. of specimens and sex where known	Type or type series	Locality and date collected where known	Macleay Museum Reg. No.	Type specimen number in Australian Museum
Meliphagidae	<i>Philotis frenata</i> Ramsay, 1874	Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1874, p. 603	<i>Meliphaga frenata</i> (Ramsay), p. 775	1	Type series ?	Rockingham Bay	BT23	0.18560 male 0.18561 female 0.18562 female
Dicaeidae	<i>Pardalotus assimilis</i> Ramsay, 1877	2 : 180	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i> (Gm.), p. 723	3	Type series ?	New South Wales	BT24	0.18593
Zosteropidae	<i>Zosterops flavogularis</i> Masters, 1876	1 : 56	<i>Zosterops albiventris</i> Reichenb., p. 699	7 4 male 3 female	Type series	Cape Grenville	BT12	None
Zosteropidae	<i>Zosterops ramsayi</i> Masters, 1875	1 : 56	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i> (Lath.), p. 709	2 2 male	Type series	Palm Island, N.E. Australia	BT13	None



*Acknowledgements*

I wish to express my thanks to the Curator of Birds at the Australian Museum Mr. H. J. de S. Disney, and especially to Mr. K. A. Hindwood, Honorary Associate of the same Museum, who very kindly sorted through a selection of suspected type specimens.

I am also grateful to Mrs. Karen Paynter and to Miss Kerry Smith for their proficient technical assistance in the compiling of the several drafts of this list.

*References*

- GOLDMAN, JUDY, HILL, L. and STANBURY, P. J., 1969.—Type specimens in the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney. II. Amphibians and reptiles. *PROC. LINN. SOC. N.S.W.*, 93 : 427-438.
- MACMILLAN, D. N. S., 1957.—“A Squatter Went to Sea.” Currawong Publishing Company, Sydney.
- MATHEWS, G. M., 1927, 1930.—“Systema Avium Australasianarum.” Parts I and II, 1047 pp. British Ornithologists Union.
- STANBURY, P. J., 1968.—Type specimens in the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney. I. Fishes. *PROC. LINN SOC. N.S.W.*, 93: 201-210.